

Appendix C – Public Scoping & Responses

Public Scoping Responses Received June 15th to July 17th and Potential Issue Development Table

Note: This document was edited on June 12, 2019, to remove PII (Personally Identifiable Information) like phone numbers, e-mail or hard copy addresses, other personal information, etc. In locations where PII was removed, “XXX” was placed in the text instead of the PII.

Table 1: Members of the Public Who Responded

Letter #	Name	Letter #	Name	Letter #	Name
1	Albert I. Goodman	42	Fred Heim	83	McCarthy Cabin Corporation
2	Allen Schmieden	43	Gary Keller	84	Michael Delvoye
3	Amy Drought	44	Gary Zimmer, Ruffed Grouse Society	85	Michael K. O'Brien
4	Andrea Vigue	45	Gary Zimmer, WI County Forest Committee	86	Mike Silber
5	Andrew Barnard	46	Geoffrey Holz	87	Mike Wacker
6	Andrew Timm	47	Harold Karlsson	88	Mike Wahlberg
7	Ann Adamovich	48	Henry Schienebeck	89	Nancy L. Buchholz
8	Arthur M. Gemer	49	Hilde Becker	90	Ned Cochrane
9	Arthur Wachholz	50	Howard and Mary Lou Short	91	Paul C Olander
10	Barbara and David Oimas	51	Ingrid Stephen	92	Paul Renkas
11	Barbara Peckarsky	52	James B. Nemec	93	Peter and Bonita Blochowiak
12	Bill Jacobi	53	James Bollmann	94	Phil Burnside
13	Bob Krause	54	James E. Engelking	95	Renee E Means
14	Bob Voss	55	James P. Flanders	96	Richard Dobson
15	Bruce and Carol Bryant	56	Jane Severt, WI County Forest Committee	97	Robert A. Pfeffer
16	Bruce M. Boczkiewicz	57	Jayne Algar	98	Robert D. Hoerres
17	Bruce S. Biendarra	58	Jeffrey A. Bettin	99	Robert H. Armstrong
18	Bud Mohns	59	Jerry Bock	100	Robert Helinkski
19	Carl E. Barnard	60	Joan Settle	101	Robert S. Bornslaeger

20	Carol and Tim Larson	61	Jody McClean	102	Robin R. Pfeiffer
21	Carol Kramer	62	John and Bob Nelesen	103	Rudolph Fuys
22	Carol Theis	63	John and Kathleen Olkowski	104	Steve Dercks
23	Carrie H. Holden	64	John and Linda Schuette	105	Steven D. Wearne
24	Cathy Wendt, Wisconsin Valley Improvement Company	65	John and Sara Klein	106	Steven Hodggon
25	Cecilia C. Kiefer	66	John L. Garsow	107	Steven L. Jerele
26	Charmaine R. Petreikis	67	John R. Judy	108	Susan J. Morrissey
27	Chuck Hill	68	John R. Ziereis	109	Susan Kordula
28	Craig and Susan Swanson	69	John S. Payne	110	Susan Schaffel
29	Daniel Rhode	70	John S. Scheid	111	Thomas K. Froehlich
30	David Chaudoir	71	John Schmeling	112	Thomas M. Heise
31	David M. Wheeler	72	Joseph Kraemer	113	Tom Tallier, Federal Sustainable Forest Committee
32	Dennis L. Hoffman	73	Karen Young	114	Tom Turner
33	Dick Artley	74	Kathleen and James Babe	115	Tony Kobrinette, Tad Deer Management
34	Don R. Behm	75	Kay and Otto Scharpf	116	Vicki Becker
35	Donald Waller	76	Keith and Kathryn Hahlbeck	117	Willard Magle
36	Donna DePape	77	Linda Flaherty	118	William E. Brand
37	Douglas Rentschler	78	Mark J. Ziemann	119	Woodrow C. Chenault
38	Dr. Edward J. Barylak	79	Mark L. Krueger	120	Jacquelyn Rader
39	Earl E. Vorpapel III	80	Marvin Helphrey	121	Dan Knuth
40	Edward J. Grajkowski	81	Mary Doden	122	Peter Kirkpatrick
41	Eric A Henderson	82	Mary Kuppenheimer	123	Wilbert Thiel
				124	Diane Geis

124 responses were reviewed prior to, during, and after the interdisciplinary team (IDT) meeting on August 30, 2017. The comments from all respondents, which pertained to the purpose and need of the Fourmile Project, have been copied or paraphrased below. The Responsible Official will consider concerns or comments not seen below or that do not specifically pertain to the Fourmile Project for future proposals that relate to the specific concern.

Scoping concerns that surfaced are categorized below with potential resolution identified. For example, concerns could be resolved or addressed through 1) routine analysis, 2) project design features, 3) specific mitigations to minimize impacts further, or by 4) following

the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan (Forest Plan) standards and guidelines. When the IDT suggests that a concern may be best addressed through an alternative (e.g. avoiding certain areas or activities), it will be considered a potential issue or an unresolved concern. Again, if a comment is not listed below, either there was no concern given or the comment did not pertain directly to the Fourmile Project.

Table 2: Public Scoping Responses to Comments Received June 15th through July 17th and Potential Issue Development

<i>Y = potential issue that could drive an alternative</i>		<i>N = not an issue, not a concern with this project's activities, or outside the scope of this project</i>		<i>A = Addressed through routine analysis</i>	
		<i>PDC = Addressed through routine project design mitigation</i>		<i>S = Supportive Comment</i>	
Letter #	Subject	Public Comment	Category	Team Recommendations / Comments	
30	Forest Management and Road	"I am a property owner within the project (XXX) am very glad to hear about the proposal cutting being planned. I feel the forest is in need of cutting to let in sunlight and promote brushy openings which will benefit wildlife and birds in the area. I do hope that roads will be closed (bermed or gated) to stop vehicle traffic after cutting finished, walking trails great but motor vehicle out."	S and PDC	Thank you for your project support. Roads that are used during implementation would be left the way they were before the activity was implemented (utilizing project design criteria). In other words, if the road is on the Motor Vehicle Use Map (https://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/fseprd489140.pdf), it will remain open and returned to the conditions prior to proposed activity. If it was closed to motorized use before this project was implemented, it will be closed after the project is implemented.	
8	Wildlife	"I am hoping this project improves the deer and grouse habitat in the area. It is about time some of the renewable timber resources are used."	S and N	Thank you for your support. For further information concerning game species see response on Page 5 of this document. This response addresses the possible concern of deer and grouse habitat.	
43	Vegetation and Wildlife	"Worried about clear cutting. I believe select cutting is better for deer and grouse"	A	The impacts of clearcutting and selection cutting will be analyzed and understood before the project is implemented. This analysis will include soil, wildlife, plant, recreation/visuals, waters, and possibly Non-native Invasive Species impacts (if relevant).	

93	Transportation and Vegetation	<p>“...As property owners on Franklin Lake at XXX, we are especially concerned about the work being planned for both McClane Lane (2488) and Fournier Road (2460)...McClane Lane is a sandy dirt road with a beautiful tree canopy and excellent views deep into its wooded area. The canopy and views would be destroyed by cutting down hardwoods in the area...Destroying its beauty is a huge concern. In addition the canopy helps in protecting the road from heavy rains and snow falls.</p> <p>Fournier Rd is a 3.2 mile long black top road connecting Hwy 70 to McClane Lane and Halme Lane and ending at Butternut Lake Rd. In the first mile off of Hwy 70 some views into the forest are blocked by roadside concentrations of balsam and spruce trees on both sides of the road. Thinning these concentrations would allow for better viewing deep into the forest area.</p> <p>Another area of concern is the sand bar area on Franklin Lake. Allowing removal of trees from the shoreline would not be attractive from the lake side.”</p>	S and N	<p>The activities the Forest Service proposed along FR 2488 and FR 2460 are a thinning of aspen and spruce, selection harvesting of Northern Hardwoods, and a partial removal of balsam fir. Thank you for supporting the removal of balsam fir in your comments concerning Fournier Road. The harvesting, outside of the balsam fir stands/forests, in this area will be thinning and single-tree selection harvests. These activities will maintain the overstory, keeping the canopy, with only taking a couple trees per acre. Scenic impacts to these areas will be minimal and should not be visible or noticeable after 5 years. Ultimately, this activity will promote forest health and resiliency, making sure the beauty of the area's roads continue for many future decades.</p>
26	Vegetation, Wildlife, and Visual	<p>“...Our goals for our land are: 1. Sustainable Forestry, 2. Provide for wildlife habitat through timber management, 3. Maintain aesthetic around Elm Lake. We hope your goals are similar to our”</p>	N	<p>The purpose or the goal for the Fourmile Project is to maintain or restore vegetation communities to their desired conditions in Management Areas 2A, 2B, and 4B (Forest Plan Objective 1.4a); maintain or enhance existing forest studies, current species composition per the direction of the North Central Forest Experiment Station, or the development of new research projects in the project area; provide a safe and effective road system to support the vegetation actions proposed (Forest Plan Goal 3.1); and maintain or enhance public safety related to wildfire potential and vegetation actions proposed (Forest Plan</p>

				Objective 2.8c). The activities in close proximity to Elm Lake include single-tree selection and thinning. These are activities in which aesthetics values should be minimally impacted and should align with your goals of your land.
115	Wildlife	"I currently practice wildlife management (QDM) for deer hunting on my property. There are many bear which prevent QDM. Will the program drive more deer out as the bear relocate to private land?"	N	The State of Wisconsin is tasked and authorized to manage game populations, like deer, on all lands within the State of Wisconsin, including private and federal lands. Because of this, and deer management being outside the scope of this project, the concern is categorized as a non-issue. While the Forest Service recognizes that early successional habitat (being created in the Fourmile Project) which deer utilize for foraging habitat could slightly influence deer population locally, the State of Wisconsin's yearly deer hunt and harvest quota or limits have a direct influence over local and statewide populations of deer.
74	Transportation	"I have a road access permit [Forest Service Road 2416]. They closed up road 8-10 years ago and I need that to clear all deadwood and brush."	N	Thank you for helping to keep forest roads maintained and for reminding the Forest Service of your permitted access.
67	Vegetation	"It looks good to me. A lot of forest areas could use some thinning. That includes the Headwaters Wilderness. It is getting far too many large trees and that keeps out plants which would provide food for deer and turkeys."	S	Thank you for your support.
79	Vegetation and Wildlife	"What are the plans concerning any forest areas surrounding 7-mile lake? Also wondering about tree harvest in the Spring Meadow area South of Hwy 70. I am pro-logging and hope to improve habitat for deer. Also interested in any clearcut activities. Note; Haymeadow Flowage activity might help deer management. Please leave trees up around 7-mile lake on the edge of the lake	S	There are no activities proposed along the Sevenmile lake shoreline. The Forest Service is proposing various activities around the Spring Meadow Creek area. Those activities include thinning white pine and aspen, selection harvesting hardwoods, clearcutting a small aspen stand, releasing already established white pine with an overstory removal, and salvaging a dying

		itself”		oak stand (these stands are all in the 001 compartment area).
54	Recreation/ Visual	“My concern is over the Franklin/Butternut Lake area; specifically the Hidden Lakes Trail [south of McKinley Lake, east of Pat Shay Lake, and east of Echo Lake]! As you know, this is a beautiful recreational area, and it should not be disturbed. Please don’t come within a mile of the Hidden Lakes trail...”	Y and PDC	The Chequamegon-Nicolet Land and Resource Management Plan (Forest Plan) outlines standards and guidelines (which will be followed in implementing the Fourmile Project) to mitigate impacts to recreation and visual values like the Hidden Lakes Trail system (Forest Plan at 2-29 through 2-30). Selection or single tree harvest is proposed to occur in four hardwood stands on the southwest portion of the Hidden Lakes Trail, near Pat Shay Lake. This type of harvest is also proposed in two smaller stands touching the northeast portion of this trail. Lastly, a balsam fir and a birch thinning is proposed along a small portion of the northwest area of the Hidden Lakes Trail system. Within the environmental analysis, the Hidden Lakes Trail impacts will be analyzed. This analysis will include looking into a one-mile buffer alternative.
64	Private Developme nt	“This is a wonderful project. As the area has had more development these must be an impact on issues addressed here. We have a concern of the negative impact caused by development because of the people not always knowing how they negatively impact the environment.”	S and N	Thank you for your support. Since the Fourmile project does not include activities that change structural development in the area, this concern is beyond the scope of the project.
84	Vegetation	“After reading the summary of the Fourmile project. I hope herbicide would not be used.”	N and PDC	Thank you for letting us know about your herbicide concern. The Forest Service is proposing to possibly use herbicide on three stands (<62 acres), increasing the success of regeneration in those stands. The Forest Service follows many guidelines when using herbicide; these practices are outlined in the Forest’s Invasive Plant Control Project Environmental Assessment (https://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUME

				<p>NTS/stelprd3833390.pdf). Specifically, the Forest Service will take every precaution for personal protection and protection of the environment. A spill plan and spill kits are part of this process. All appropriate State permits for pesticide application will be obtained. A licensed applicator will supervise all herbicide work. Herbicide will not be applied by aerial application (plane or helicopter) or truck-mounted spray device, minimizing unintended application.</p>
88	Vegetation and Wildlife	<p>"I think the Forest Service does a pretty good job by selective harvesting areas instead of clearcutting and keeping the areas a size that has a good effect for wildlife in the habitat. As far as the scenic affects as long as part of the trails are left, the part that's logged will grow back and the long-term effect for wildlife is more important."</p>	S	Thank you for your support.
114	Recreation	<p>On the proposed hunting/hiking trails, no ATVs or UTVs, have foot travel only, and no horses or bicycles.</p>	N	<p>The current scope of the Fourmile Project is maintaining existing activities for the Nine-mile Creek, Kimball Creek North and South, and Scott Creek Hunter Hiking Trails. Changing the current approved uses (e.g. hiking) are not being proposed for changes; thus, this concern is beyond the scope of this project.</p>
42	Transportation	<p>"...What is the expected impacts to traffic on 2178?"</p>	N	<p>The traffic on FR 2178 or Military Road would be impacted sporadically when the proposed activities are implemented. Since the activities on that road would be implemented in separate groups throughout the course of the ~5-10 years it takes to implement, increases in traffic would be minimally noticeable. In other words, the proposed activities would not be implemented all at once or during one particular season, so traffic impacts should not be noticeable.</p>
108	Visuals and Vegetation	<p>"I am concerned about the oversight of this project. I am concerned about logging roads that</p>	PDC and S	<p>Impacts from temporary or permanent roads will be mitigated by Wisconsin's Forestry Best</p>

		can detract and harm our beautiful northern woods. Habit restoration is vital. These lands belong to all of us and I am not in favor of profiteering at the public's expense"		<p>Management Practices for Water Quality (http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/forestmanagement/documents/pub/fr-093.pdf) in the Fourmile Project.</p> <p>The Forest Service values ecosystem restoration like this commenter and the Forest Plan guides us to accomplish this type of restoration. The Fourmile Project will achieve desired conditions outlined in the Forest Plan; these desired conditions contribute towards ecosystem restoration.</p> <p>The primary need for this project is to improve the health and resiliency of the forests in the Fourmile Project Area.</p>
9	Vegetation and Recreation	<p>"First of all it's great that some type of forest management is occurring in our area. Our forests have been neglected for a number of years. It's a general concern that we should be selective cutting and cleaning the forest floor. A number of people have expressed concerns about clear cutting in our area.</p> <p>Also of concern is the abandonment of Sevenmile Lake campground.</p> <p>I have 15 acres that is surrounded by national forest that I have been selective cutting to promote regrowth and have also seen a resurgence of wildlife; turkey, grouse, deer and various small animals.</p>	S and N	<p>Thank you for expressing your concern over clearcutting and for your general support for this project. Project design criteria will be put in place to mitigate the short and long-term impacts from clearcut harvesting. For example, skid trails will be placed in areas which reduce erosion potential and during conditions which reduce rutting occurrence.</p> <p>The current scope of the project is to only maintain the existing activities for the Nine-mile Creek, Kimball Creek North and South, and Scott Creek Hunter Hiking Trails. Altering recreational areas outside of those three trails are not being proposed for changes; thus, the concern around Sevenmile Lake Campground is beyond the scope of this project.</p>
105	Vegetation	"Our house is at XXX...hope you do no more than a thinning in our back yard."	N	<p>Thank you for sharing your concern. The proposed activities in close proximity to your property (XXX) are thinning pine plantations and single-tree selection harvesting (in northern hardwood forests). These both are harvests that will leave the majority of the tree canopy intact, reducing the visual impacts of the proposed activities; thus, this concern is addressed.</p>

37	Vegetation	<p>"This written in support of the Fourmile Vegetation Management Project to periodically thin, harvest, salvage and improve numerous acres in the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest. This project will support, maintain and enhance habitat for deer, grouse, turkey and other woodland wildlife.</p> <p>This sustainable forest management project will provide for continued recreational opportunities and renews the northern forests for everyone to enjoy.</p> <p>Thank you for the opportunity to comment during the initial phase of this management project."</p>	S	Thank you for sharing your support for this project.
77	Wildlife	<p>"We have a home on Fourmile Lake Road. We are concerned about the surrounding areas and also about maintaining the habitat and health of the wildlife."</p>	N and A	<p>Please refer to the maps attached to the Environmental Assessment in order to better understand what activities are occurring and what specific concerns you may have.</p> <p>The impacts to sensitive wildlife and their habitat will be analyzed in the forthcoming environmental analysis. This analysis will also include mitigations that reduce the project's impacts to wildlife.</p>
78	Recreation	<p>"We are losing the trails within the Nat. Forest. Trails I have hunted with my parents and friends parents are disappearing. We need to allow traffic of some kind to go on the trails so they do not disappear forever.</p> <p>Maybe a 1 day a year ATV pass on the trails.</p> <p>Need to do something so we don't get lost on the trails.</p>	S and N	<p>Thank you for your support in the Fourmile Project, specifically supporting the maintenance of the Nine-mile Creek, Kimball Creek North and South, and Scott Creek Hunter Hiking Trails.</p> <p>Proposing that the use of these trails go beyond foot traffic is outside the scope of this project because changing trail use is not within the purpose of this project.</p>
75	Visuals	<p>"... the top priority should be recreation and treated with visual sensitivity. Visitors and locals expect to see a beautiful woods. This area is one of the few places that people can see a large tree.</p> <p>...I would like to see a Master Logger get the job for more sensitive areas of this project. Quality</p>	PDC and N	<p>Thank you for expressing your concern about recreation and visual resources. All loggers that put in bids to implement tree harvests have to be in good standing with the Forest Service's contracting guidelines. In addition, implementation has strict design criteria or mitigating activities loggers need to follow in</p>

		<p>Logging sure makes a difference. It is interesting to see how you are going to handle that mess east of 2460 (Fournier) that grew up after a large clearcut 40 years ago. Hopefully, you can improve it.</p> <p>...All of us who live on and use this road would appreciate special consideration to retain the visual quality of McClane Ln through careful planning and design. (VQO). If possible could we be consulted at the time of marking trees for harvest. Also if this is a hardwood select cut, will the hemlock, pines, spruce and balsam be included in this sale? Is it possible to have winter logging on this road and other visually sensitive areas in this project? 2488 is a gravel road. A tree canopy over the road will keep the dust down.</p> <p>The sand bar area on Franklin Lake is a very popular place for all who use the lake. Campground visitors actually put their lawn chairs in the water on the bar. Hopefully, you can make this birch area aesthetically pleasing. Highly traveled Divide and Military Roads also deserve special attention when logging to keep them the beautiful roads that they are.</p> <p>I have participated in your requests for public comment on many of your projects and management plans for 50 years. As always, I promote biodiversity in all of your sales and projects."</p>		<p>order to minimize visual impacts along roads like Fournier Road and McClane Lane; thus, this concern is already mitigated.</p> <p>Within hardwood selection harvests, it is typical to remove a small portion of pines, spruce, and balsam, leaving less present hemlock behind.</p> <p>Winter harvest restrictions will be considered for the Fournier and McClane roads. Please note that the Forest Service (within the Forest Plan) has a requirement for Management Area 2B which typically restricts all harvests on that soil to winter operation. Most of the area around Fournier Road and McClane Lane are within the Management Area 2B classification.</p>
102	Vegetation	<p>"If vegetation management means cutting some timber, I am for it 100%. I have lived in Hiles my whole life and wandered this area for over 40 years hunting, fishing, and ect. As of now. There is more timber rotting on the forest floor that is [not] being cut. That is no way to manage timberlands. Poplar and balsam stands that are clearcut make excellent animal habitat, properly</p>	S	<p>Thank you for your support of the Fourmile Project.</p>

		thinning hardwood stands make for better timber and healthier forests. ...The town of Hiles, Argonne, and Alvin turned this land over to the USFS a long time ago to be managed with common sense. It is about time we get back to that type of forest management.”		
71	Vegetation	“I am all for managing the forest using the methods proposals, especially reducing the fuel load and thinning to produce healthier trees.”	S	Thank you for your support of the Fourmile Project.
15	Vegetation	“I am a summer resident. My family has owned property here since 1951. I have 58 acres of timber in the Nicolet National Forest. I am absolutely opposed to the project and any cutting of public lands trees, particularly clearcutting. You should know of the history of national forests and the desire to keep them for future generations. Please leave our trees alone!”	A	The Forest Service understands your concern; however, the need for action in the Fourmile Project Area is too great to be left alone. To better understand if the clearcutting comments are an issue with the Project, the impacts of clearcutting will be fully analyzed and understood before the project is implemented. This analysis will include soil, wildlife, plant, recreation/visuals, waters, and possibly Non-native Invasive Species impacts (if relevant).
32	Recreation	“I don’t know if this concern applies to this project but I’m total against allowing ATV or UTVs on national forest lands.”	N	Thank you for sharing your concern. Your comment will better inform the Forest Service when it comes to future projects concerning ATV or UTV changes. Since the Fourmile Project does not alter ATV or UTV authorized use, this concern is beyond the scope of the project; thus, this concern will be considered resolved for this project.
65	Vegetation	Concerned about clearcutting and why it is necessary; clearcutting is an unnecessary procedure to be used very conservatively	A	The Forest Service understands your concern. The Fourmile Project proposed clearcutting in order to fulfill the projects objective of maintaining vegetation communities to their desired conditions in Management Areas 2A, 2B, and 4B (Forest Plan Objective 1.4a). Specifically in the Fourmile Project, most of the clearcutting is occurring in aspen forests. This type of harvest is the most effective when regenerating older and dying aspen forests.

				Nonetheless, to make sure all impacts from clearcutting are understood, effects of clearcutting will be fully analyzed and understood before the project is implemented. This analysis will include soil, wildlife, plant, recreation/visuals, waters, and Non-native Invasive Species impacts (if relevant).
70	Vegetation	"...Interested in learning more about the replanting of quaking aspen along "old military rd" and Sam Campbell Road/trail..."	N	The current proposal for the Fourmile Project along Old Military and the Sam Campbell Road/Trail is to possibly thin the red and jack pine plantations. This current project is not proposing to convert these plantations to aspen because these forests are not ready to be regenerated to a different species. However, when these stands are regenerated, we will engage the public to try and better understand concerns around regenerating species like aspen.
20	General	Why is it called the Fourmile project?	N	The project name came from the Fourmile Lake within the Project Area.
87	Visuals	<p>"I am concerned anytime I see the words "tree management". All you have to do is look at the mess somebody created along Chicken-in-the-Woods road NE of Hwy 32 to understand why. You use the terms "minimal evidence" and at the same time "scenic values may be temporarily impacted". You scare the sh__ out of me. Temporary to you may be longer than my kid's lifetime to me.</p> <p>Tree management can be done to create a park like atmosphere. Look at the property on Hwy 70 east west of 2148 near the gas station. It has been cut a number of times in recent years and it is still easily valuable. Sure it costs more but those shouldn't be the concern when the alternative is to create a mess like along</p>	PDC	<p>Thank you for expressing your concern. To better define "temporarily impacted," the Forest Service typically experienced visual impacts along trails or roads (utilizing uneven aged management) for no longer than 5 years. Project design criteria will be implemented to make sure impacts to visuals along roads, trails, lakes, and streams will be minimized while achieving the goals of this project, healthy and resilient forests (Forest Plan at 2-29 through 2-30).</p>

		Chicken-in-the-Woods Rd. Leave it looking better or leave it alone!"		
89	Vegetation	"I do not feel any intervention is needed. Mother Nature has been handling things for years. I believe this is the only thing yet another government agency is doing to create jobs and the facade of a purpose. I object to any of the proposed activity adjacent to my property and would consider legal intervention."	N	The purpose or the goal for the Fourmile Project is to maintain or restore vegetation communities to their desired conditions in Management Area 2A, 2B, and 4B; maintain or enhance existing forest research studies (continue research studies in the Argonne Experimental Forest or develop new research studies to address concerns in the Project Area); provide a safe and effective road system to support vegetation actions proposed; maintain or enhance public safety related to wildfire potential and vegetation actions proposed; and contribute towards satisfying the demand for wood product.
77	Visuals and Wildlife	"We have a home on Fourmile Lake Road. We are concerned about the surrounding area and also about maintaining the habitat and health of the wildlife."	A	Thank you for expressing your concern around the Fourmile Lake Road. The only proposed activities around that road is a pine plantation thinning near the intersection of Old Military Road and Fourmile Lake Road. The effects to sensitive wildlife and their habitat will be analyzed in the forthcoming environmental analysis. This analysis will also include mitigations that reduce the project's impacts to wildlife.
29	Vegetation	"Encouraged to see that hunter/hiker trails will be maintained. Its been way to long. Cutting trees for forest health management is great to see. Good to see more tree cutting in general in this forest area. Scenic values are well balanced with needs. Excited the project has come to the top of the rotation!"	S	Thank you for your support of the Fourmile Project.

4	Transportation	“...The Kosalos property begins at the end of a fire trail road through Nicolet Nat'l Forest. The fire trail originates from old military road. A big problem for us concerns the maintenance of the fire trail. We have spent years trying to improve it so we can navigate it. This past year part of the Nat'l Forest was logged and the road was made almost impassable...please improve the road if you are using it. We can't navigate it in our sedan!”	N	Typically, all roads utilized in the implementation of vegetation projects like the Fourmile project would be put back to conditions similar to before activities took place. The Fourmile project is considering improving roads when meeting the project's purpose and need (to provide a safe and effective road system to support vegetation actions proposed).
37	Vegetation and Recreation	“This written in support of the Fourmile Vegetation Management Project to periodically thin, harvest, salvage and improve numerous acres in the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest. This project will support, maintain and enhance habitat for deer, grouse, turkey and other woodland wildlife. This sustainable forest management project will provide for continued recreational opportunities and renews the northern forests for everyone to enjoy.”	S	Thank you for your support of the Fourmile Project.
57 and 73	Recreation and Visuals	“We are a group of 8 women from Kentuck, Anvil, Emogene, Franklin and Butternut Lakes called the Happy Hikers. It is a right of spring to get out after a long winter to hike in the woods. We park at the parking lot on Knapp Rd. and head east along the Hidden Lakes Trail where a mass of white spring beauties in the woods awaits us. An old logging sale caused the wildflowers to disappear on a section of the trail where wildflowers were once perfume. Is there a Forest Service specialist who knows how to manage this trail and use a logging method that would preserve these flowers? We would appreciate special treatment for this area.”	A	The Forest Service has a botanist and a recreation specialist on our interdisciplinary team for the Fourmile Project. At a minimum, they will analyze the impacts of the project to the Hidden Lakes Trail area and possibly suggest actions to mitigate the impacts to resources like surrounding trails and/or vegetation. Un-even aged harvest (where many of the trees are left) is the only activity proposed along the Hidden Lakes Trail; the trail runs along 6 units, mostly occurring along the southeastern portion of the trail. This harvest would keep a majority of the tree canopy intact, helping to maintain the understory spring flowers.

110	Visual and Botany	<p>"We have owned property on Youngs Lane on Franklin Lake for 50 years. During that time we have noted significant change in tree species: in particular the decline of birch and the increase of hemlock.</p> <p>We are pleased that your Fourmile project is sensitive to the visual forest around Franklin and Butternut Lakes. While we recognize the importance of managing the forest for overgrowth and harvest, we know that the lakes and forest are also the source of great joy and pleasure for many summer residents, campers, and visitors. We strongly encourage not disrupting that beauty by visually scarring the woods. We ask that you be particularly sensitive to the sand bar area that extends into Franklin Lake. It is a major recreational spot on the lake and should remain aesthetically pleasing to those who linger there. It appears that your project does not include the reseedling of areas. We think birch have for a long time added beauty to the area as well as valuable timber and aren't sure why there haven't been efforts to encourage their growth..."</p>	S, A, and N	<p>Thank you for letting the Forest Service know about your concerns around the sand bar in Franklin Lake.</p> <p>Concerning vegetation, the Forest Service's objectives for the Fourmile Project is to maintain or restore vegetation communities to their desired conditions (within the Forest Plan) in Management Area 2A, 2B, and 4B. These management areas have particular tree species mixtures the Forest Service is trying to improve or maintain. The proposed action has over 150 acres of birch thinning which promotes tree resiliency and over 250 acres of birch shelterwood activities that establish the regeneration of birch. Ultimately, the proposed actions do not include birch seeding specifically but it does promote these trees in the Project Area.</p>
55	Visuals	Retain the roadside and shoreline vegetation and views along 4 mile Creek Road, Fourmile Lake Rd., and old/new Military Rd.	PDC	<p>Thank you for expressing your concern around Fourmile Creek Road, Fourmile Lake Road, and old/new Military Road.</p> <p>The Chequamegon-Nicolet Land and Resource Management Plan (Forest Plan) outlines standards and guidelines (which will be followed in the Fourmile Project's project design criteria) to mitigate impacts to recreation and visual values along those road systems (Forest Plan at 2-29 through 2-30).</p>

119	Visuals and Recreation	“Military Rd., Haymeadow Rd. and Knapp Rd., and Butternut Rd. in the project area are among the most scenic areas in WI in my opinion, particularly because of the large red pines, white pines, hemlocks, oaks, and maples near and visible from the roadways. These should not be disturbed, i.e. There should be no activity that is visible from these roadways and the east slope of Sevenmile lake at any time...trail maintenance is much more appreciated than “harvest” activities...”	PDC	<p>Thank you for expressing your concern around Military Road, Haymeadow Road, and Knapp Road.</p> <p>The Chequamegon-Nicolet Land and Resource Management Plan (Forest Plan) outlines standards and guidelines (which will be followed in the Fourmile Project’s design criteria) to mitigate impacts to recreation and visual values along those road systems (Forest Plan at 2-29 through 2-30).</p> <p>The current proposal will include harvest activities that would be visible for approximately 5 years (short-term) and since Sevenmile Lake includes mostly privately owned land around the lake, Fourmile activities will not be in close proximity to that shoreline and should not be visible from the shorelines.</p>
101	Wildlife	“I am glad to see cutting in your plan. I have hunted just east of the Argonne Forest for 20 years and seen deer turkey in the hardwoods ridges, which now support neither game or other wildlife. Hope improvements will be made.”	S	Thank you for your support of the Fourmile Project.
40	Recreation and Vegetation	“I like the overall concept of the Fourmile project. I would like to see the additions to your plan: 1. Keep all existing roads open, 2. Make and expand multi use trails (snowmobile, ATV/UTV, horse-back, bikes, hikers, etc.), 3. Do not restrict access to forest lands, 4. Continue with experimental forest research (Argonne), 5. Publish results of experimental forest research to date.”	S, A, and N	<p>Thank you for your general support for the Fourmile Project.</p> <p>The Project will include a roads analysis where the impacts of the utilized road system will be compared to the benefits of using the road. From this analysis, roads that are presenting a burdensome natural resource impact may be closed or decommissioned.</p> <p>Changing the current approved uses for trails (e.g. hiking, biking, snowmobiling, etc.) are not being proposed; thus, this concern is beyond the scope of this project.</p> <p>Publications related to the Argonne Experimental Forest can be located at https://www.nrs.fs.fed.us/ef/locations/wi/argonne/</p>

7	Recreation, Visuals, and Vegetation	<p>"I am writing in reference to Map 1 (northern part) of the Fourmile Project in the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest. I have been coming up to Franklin Lake since 1969 and living in the area for 36 years - my husband was born in Eagle River.</p> <p>I do understand the need for logging and managing the forests but would like to encourage you to use Master Loggers in the more high traffic areas. Master Loggers are held to higher standards and are required to be above the criteria. High traffic areas include: Military Road, Divide Road, McClane Lane (2488) and the Hidden Lakes Trails. Please consider my desire to leave a denser basal area along the roads and Trails for aesthetic value. Recreation and tourism are to be considered.</p> <p>I'm glad to see the aspen in 008-2 is only being thinned and not clearcut.</p> <p>Area 007-20 no longer has many birch left and there isn't much area available to cut after the RMZ's. The point and sandbar are heavily used all summer by residents, people staying at the campground and day visitors. You may want to take a second look at that one.</p> <p>I would like to be advised when the timber sales are set up as to the areas and designation.</p> <p>Thank you for taking the time to read these comments on an area near and dear to my heart."</p>	PDC	<p>Thank you for expressing your concern about recreation and visuals. All loggers that put in bids to implement tree harvests have to be in good standing with the Forest Service's contracting guidelines. In addition, implementation has strict design criteria or mitigating activities loggers need to follow in order to minimize visual impacts along roads like Military Road and McClane Lane; thus, this concern is mitigated.</p> <p>Concerning the basal area left along roads, the Forest Service is tasked in the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest's Forest Plan to protect or minimally affect visuals along roads like the ones you named in your comment. Along with tree density, tree species and overall tree health will be incorporated into the marking guidelines, which will determine the final amount of trees to be harvested or left alone. An influencing factor in tree density being left is the silvicultural prescription or regeneration instructions. A certain number of trees need to be left or taken in order to appropriately influence tree growth or regeneration. Nonetheless, the Forest Service will make sure to leave as much basal area as they scientifically can along sensitive road corridors while still meeting their tree growth and regeneration requirements.</p> <p>Thank you for the information supplied around 007-20.</p>
81	Visuals	<p>"My family and I have grown up vacationing and living on and around Franklin Lake since 1966. We, as well as many others, come here for the untouched natural beauty, peace and quiet. We would greatly appreciate an aesthetically pleasing buffer zone between all roads, trails and recreation areas, and the logging areas. In</p>	PDC, and A	<p>Thank you for expressing your concern around the visual resources.</p> <p>The Chequamegon-Nicolet Land and Resource Management Plan (Forest Plan) outlines standards and guidelines (which will be followed in the Fourmile Project's project design criteria) to mitigate impacts to recreation and visual</p>

		<p>particular, 2488 (McClane Ln.), the hidden Lakes Trail and the Franklin Lake point (sand bar). We are advocates of biodiversity and would appreciate the saving of some of the larger tree in the area. People come from all over the world to enjoy the forests and wildlife of this area. Please take special care to keep it beautiful.”</p>		<p>values along those road systems (Forest Plan at 2-29 through 2-30). These mitigations and the visual analysis in the environmental analysis will address this concern.</p>
75	Visual and Plants	<p>“...I found that the project involves the Hidden Lakes Trail. Spring ephemeral flowers are in abundance along the trail and into the woods in 222-1, 220-1 and 224-17. The spring beauties spread like a cloud of snow in these woods. Opening the canopy too much will effect this species. This portion of the Hidden Lakes Trail is well known as a spot to view this spring beauty phenomenon. I have taken many groups of people there every year in the spring. I am sure timber managers are unaware of these ephemerals as they last only a short time in early spring. If you go there now, you will not know that they exist. On the trail just east of 224-17, a previous timber sale opened the canopy too much and allowed an understory of elderberry to come in. The wildflowers pretty much disappeared.</p> <p>Please give this area special attention.</p> <p>I also would like to know the basal area planned for select cuts along Military Rd (2178), Divide Rd (2176), Knapp Rd (2179), McClane Ln (2488) and Babcock Rd (2425)...Is it possible to have winter logging in sensitive areas? Is the Hidden Lakes Trail an RMZ zone?”</p>	PDC and A	<p>The Chequamegon-Nicolet Land and Resource Management Plan (Forest Plan) outlines standards and guidelines (which will be followed in the Fourmile Project's project design criteria) to mitigate impacts to recreation and visual values like the Hidden Lakes Trail system (Forest Plan at 2-29 through 2-30). Selection or single tree harvest is proposed to occur in four hardwood stands on the southwest portion of the Hidden Lakes Trail, near Pat Shay Lake. This type of harvest is also proposed in two smaller stands touching the northeast portion of this trail. Lastly, a balsam fir and a birch thinning is proposed along a small portion of the northwest area of the Hidden Lakes Trail system. Within the environmental analysis, the Hidden Lakes Trail impacts will be analyzed.</p> <p>If you look at the supplied proposed action maps and the following basal area description for each activity, you should be to better understand the residual basal area for the stands along Military, Divide, Knapp, McClane, and Babcock roads. In general, improvement, selection, and shelterwood harvests would have residual basal area of 70, 83, and 50-60 square feet per acre, respectively. These harvests have a residual crown closure of 75-80%, 80%, and 40-60%, respectively. Overstory removal and clearcuts would have residual basal area of <10 square feet and 5% residual crown coverage. The</p>

				<p>stands that are proposed to thin would have a variable residual basal area and have a >60% residual crown closure. These residual numbers are estimates from the existing stand data. These numbers could be slightly altered up or down due to site specific circumstances, including insect/disease issues larger or smaller than expected or local topography that won't allow tree removal.</p> <p>Winter harvest consideration were responded to on Page 10 and 11 of this document; please refer to that discussion above.</p> <p>Portions of the Hidden Lake Trail along or within Riparian Management Zones (RMZs) and the activity restrictions that come along with that categorization will be followed in all proposed activities.</p>
85	Implementat ion	Concerns include logging equipment traffic, road damage (e.g. unpaved part of Scott Lake Rd.), and scenic wilderness destruction.	PDC and N	<p>Harvest occurring in the area would be spread across many years and different locations in the project area. This will minimize logging equipment traffic on roads.</p> <p>Typically, all roads utilized in the implementation of vegetation projects like the Fourmile Project and Scott Lake Road would be put back to conditions similar to before activities took place. The Fourmile Project's purpose and need is to provide a safe and effective road system to support vegetation actions proposed.</p> <p>Since all proposed activities are not directly alongside or within the Headwaters or the Blackjack Springs Wildernesses, impacts to this resource will be immeasurable.</p>

68	Vegetation	“I am in full support of this project. In my opinion this is long overdue. I use the forest for recreation fishing and hunting. I see firsthand, the need for changes to enhance the resources. The changes you propose will improve habitat, restore natural growth, and reverse some of the damage that stemmed from the lack of manageability over the last several years. I’m excited to see your plan implemented!”	S	Thank you for your support of the Fourmile Project.
3	Vegetation and Recreation	“I am concerned that the activities minimize impacts to the natural resources and the wilderness characteristics of the area.”	N	All proposed activities are not directly alongside or within the Headwaters or the Blackjack Springs Wildernesses, so impacts to the Wilderness resource will be immeasurable. Thus, the wilderness character will not be impacted from the status quo.
5 and 19	Wildlife	<p>“...we are concerned with the declines we have witnessed in wildlife populations, no doubt predicated by a loss of quality wildlife habitat as a result of not enough active forest management and/or misguided management decisions in decades past. This is especially noticeable for those wildlife species that depend on early-successional (i.e., young) forests for habitat, including but not limited to whitetail deer, wild turkeys, grouse, songbirds, etc. Each of these species has value to our family, be it from a hunting or a personal enjoyment standpoint. It has been approximately ten years since we’ve harvested a deer from CNNF lands. This is unacceptable...we ask that CNNF consider the following questions and that these be addressed in the analysis and future decision:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wildlife populations: What will be the population impacts to grouse, deer and wild turkey? • Wildlife Openings: What will be the distribution of wildlife openings and 	S and A	<p>Thank you for your general support for the Fourmile project, implementing forest management.</p> <p>The Forest Service’s proposed action may create habitat for game species like grouse, deer, and wild turkey, however, the State of Wisconsin is tasked and authorized to manage population numbers for these species on all lands within the State of Wisconsin, including private and federal lands. Because of this and game management being outside the scope of this project, the concern is categorized as a non-issue for this Project. While the Forest Service recognizes that early successional habitat, which game species may utilize for foraging habitat, could slightly influence game populations locally, the State of Wisconsin’s yearly hunting seasons and harvest quota or limits have a direct influence over local and statewide populations.</p> <p>A no action alternative and the impacts to recreation users will be analyzed.</p>

		<p>maintenance schedule for trails and openings?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recreational Benefits: Recreational benefits of early successional wildlife species for consumptive and non-consumptive purposes need to be considered and analyzed. • Impacts of no action: The analysis should assess whether “no action” will negatively affect early successional wildlife species by not creating young forest habitats and allowing decadent stands to degrade and convert to later successional forest types. 		
5 and 19	Vegetation	<p>We are also aware and concerned with the lack of diversity, both in terms of species composition and age-class diversity, that defines much of the forestland within this project area and CNNF as a whole. As lay persons, we realize that diversity is important to maintaining healthy, vibrant, resilient forests and sustainable wildlife populations. We encourage and support any efforts to create more diversity and restore adequate amounts of young forests on the landscape.</p> <p>We have observed shifts in management practices and philosophies over the years and we hope that future management, including the proposed actions, will begin to address the ramifications of those past management activities. For instance, in the 1960s-1970s, I, Bill Barnard, distinctly remember that almost every opening, no matter how small or large, was planted into monocultures of pine or spruce. The rationale for this was not explained and the result has been a seemingly disproportionate number of acres in monoculture stands that aren't being managed and are now overgrown and lacking</p>	S and A	<p>Thank you for your general support for the Fourmile Project.</p> <p>The vegetation analysis in the Project EA will include percent of young forests created (comparing it to the Forest Plan) and a tree species composition before and after proposed treatment.</p> <p>The proposed action is a proposal in which the Forest Service maximized all possible opportunities in the project area, staying within but not going beyond law, regulation, and agency direction. In other words, if the Forest Service would propose clearcutting more acres in this Project Area, we could be violating Forest Plan direction, guiding laws, and agency regulation; thus, no further proposed clearcutting will be analyzed. However, future projects may look into establishing more early successional habitat throughout the district where appropriate and following law, regulation, and policy.</p>

	<p>diversity. We strongly support active forest management and generally support the proposed actions. That said, we ask that CNNF consider the following questions and that these be addressed in the analysis and future decision:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Young forests: What will be the percent of young forest in each management area and in the project area as a whole before and after implementation? How does that compare to the Forest Plan? Please provide age class data for early successional forests in 10 year increments.• Species diversity: What will be the species composition pre and post treatment?• Economic benefit: What will be the economic impacts of timber harvests at different harvest levels? The motto of the U.S. Forest Service is “caring for the land and serving people.” In many rural communities, timber harvesting provides an essential source of income/revenue to the counties, good-paying jobs, fiber to mills for forest products, and other indirect benefits. Therefore, the economic impacts of proposed actions should be assessed and the anticipated benefits incorporated in the justification of said actions.• Increase clearcutting: Analyze the impacts of more true clearcutting to maximize habitat benefits. <p>We also support harvest activities in the Argonne Experimental Forest. Research helps to inform future management and identify/mitigate risk associated with those management decisions. Our forests are changing due to invasive and</p>		
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	<p>non-native species, changing timber markets, landownership changes, etc. Research is important, when balanced with non-research management activities as well.</p> <p>Lastly, we strongly approve of and applaud CNNF's pursuit of a Forest Plan variance to create four openings larger than 40 acres in order to create early successional wildlife habitat and tree regeneration needs. Following a plan is certainly important, but any good plan must be flexible and adaptable if it is going to remain relevant in an ever-changing world. As mentioned, we are concerned about the lack of young forests on the landscape and this plan variance will help address that concern. We suggest that if the analysis shows that four openings are not adequate to achieve the need for early-successional habitat, that additional wildlife openings be analyzed and included in the final treatments.</p> <p>There are partners who stand ready to help CNNF implement its management goals, should capacity constraints be a barrier. For instance, the National Wild Turkey Federation (NWTF), to which I, Bill Barnard, belong, shares many of the same goals and concerns we've outlined here and may be interested in partnering with CNNF through Stewardship Agreements and/or contracts to help fund and implement wildlife-related habitat work. We encourage CNNF to engage partners like NWTF as this plan moves forward.</p> <p>In closing, we strongly support the proposed actions in that we believe they will help move the project area towards a more diverse and balanced forest. That said, we do not know whether the proposed actions will be adequate to address the concerns we've outlined above. We</p>		
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		encourage CNNF to consider additional actions that will help meet or exceed the National Forest Plan goals. CNNF is part of our identities and we want future generations to be able to enjoy the forest and its many benefits for many decades to come.		
5 and 19	Recreation	"...we strongly support the restoration and continued maintenance of the three proposed hunter hiking trails (Scott Creek, Kimball Creek, and Ninemile). Providing access is essential to recruiting, reactivating, and retaining current and future generations into the hunting and fishing sports. If we do not do this, we will lose significant funding for wildlife conservation in the future...."	S	Thank you for your general support of the Fourmile Project.
48	Vegetation	"...GLTPA supports the Project Proposal and the 12,100 acres in which forest management would occur. However, we are concerned that this represents only 27 percent of the total Forest Service acreage in the project area and other needed silvicultural opportunities within this large area are not being addressed. We encourage you and your staff to fully evaluate all timber management opportunities and not delay this important work."	A	Thank you for your support with the Fourmile Project. The Forest Service looked at all stands in the project area for possible harvest opportunities, including timber that is overdue for management. These stands are then filtered through accessibility restrictions and law, regulation, and policy restriction, making sure our Forest Plan is followed.
112	Prescribed Fire	"...regarding Compartment 179, Stand 12 (hereafter 179-12)...According to Fourmile Vegetation Management Project Activities Proposed Scoping, Table 1: Vegetation activities by stand and compartment, the Reforestation Activity planned for 179-12 includes Understory Burn. The Forest Service should know that there are numerous residences, both permanent and seasonal, adjoining and within several hundred yards of 179-12. In addition, there is no road or other firebreak between 179-12 and these residences. If the burn were to somehow get out	N	Thank you for letting the Forest Service know your concern. After you expressed your concern, the Forest Service looked further into the proposed action for stand 172-12. Concluding that the understory burn for that stand may carry smoke across the lake and into private residences, the Forest Service will no longer propose doing this burn; the Forest Service will propose mechanical site preparation instead of understory burn to help tree regeneration for stand 172-12.

		<p>of control, these residences could be damaged or lost before any firefighting equipment could arrive. It is unnecessarily reckless to even consider a controlled burn so close to these residences.</p> <p>The Forest Service must modify the Vegetation Management Activity and/or Reforestation Activity so that it does not require the burning which threatens these residences or remove 179-12 from the Fourmile Vegetation Project.”</p>		
55	Visuals	Retain shoreline, roadside vegetation, and views around 4 Mile Creek road, 4 Mile Lake road, and old/new Military road.	PDC	The Chequamegon-Nicolet Land and Resource Management Plan (Forest Plan) outlines standards and guidelines (which will be followed in the Fourmile Project’s project design criteria) to mitigate impacts to recreation and visual values like the Military Road, Fourmile Road, and Fourmile Creek Road (Forest Plan at 2-29 through 2-30).
18	Visuals	“...Forest road 2178 (Military Road) has long had the special designation as a "scenic byway" and I believe it should continue to receive that kind of consideration and not turn it into a major logging road. According to the map it appears like everything on the west side of the road is going to change.”	PDC	The Forest Plan outlines standards and guidelines (which will be followed in the Fourmile Project’s project design criteria) to mitigate impacts to recreation and visual values like the Military Road (Forest Plan at 2-29 through 2-30). Activities along this road will be completed in a 5-10 year window in various seasons, minimizing the traffic impact on that road.
18	Visuals and Recreation	“My second concern involves what will happen to the Hidden Lakes Trail which passes through areas 011-9, 011-13, 222-1, and 220-1 on your project map. This trail was built by the forest service some 20+ years ago as a hiking, mountain biking trail to enhance recreation opportunities for people who were using the campgrounds at Franklin Lake and Luna-White Deer. It is also is part of the Nordic North X-C ski trails. Over the past 10 years Chuck Hill and myself have taken on the responsibility of	PDC and A	The Forest Plan outlines standards and guidelines (which will be followed in the Fourmile Project’s project design criteria) to mitigate impacts to recreation and visual values like the Hidden Lakes Trail system (Forest Plan at 2-29 through 2-30). Selection or single tree harvest is proposed to occur in four hardwood stands (including 222-1 and 220-1) on the southwest portion of the Hidden Lakes Trail, near Pat Shay Lake. This type of harvest is also proposed in two smaller stands touching the northeast portion

		<p>maintenance of the trail due lack forest service personnel. From my observations loggers don't give existing trails any special consideration. Time is money to a logger and the shortest distance very often goes right down a trail. Kay Scharpf that some of the most magnificent wild flower displays are found in areas 222-1 and 220-1."</p>		<p>of this trail. Lastly, a balsam fir and a birch thinning (011-9 & 011-13) is proposed along a small portion of the northwest area of the Hidden Lakes Trail system. Within the environmental analysis, the Hidden Lakes Trail impacts will be analyzed.</p>
113	Vegetation Management and Economics	<p>"The Federal Sustainable Forest Committee (FSFC) strongly supports the proposed management activities identified by you and your staff for the Fourmile Vegetation Project on the Eagle River/Florence Ranger District....A primary goal of FSFC is to work with the Forest Service to harvest timber at the Forest Plan levels to meet the Allowable Sale Quantity. Clearly this project proposal and the associated management activities helps address this issue. We do note that of the 44,000 acres of Federal land in the Project Area only 12,100 acres are proposed for management at this time. We request assurance that all reasonable forest management opportunities for this Project Area, within the restraints of the existing Forest Plan, have been considered in this proposal. The time period between entrees across the Forest has historically been 15–20 years or more. We are concerned that by further delaying needed on-the-ground action would negatively impact forest development and economic output in future years."</p>	S and A	<p>Thank you for your support of the Fourmile Project. The Forest Service looked at all stands in the project area for possible harvest opportunities, including timber that is overdue for management. These stands are then filtered through accessibility restrictions and law, regulation, and policy restriction, making sure our Forest Plan is followed. All stands in the project area were looked at for including in this proposal.</p>
113	Recreation and Wildlife Management	<p>"...this project proposal includes minimal non-timber related activities, with only transportation and hunter walking trail maintenance activities identified. The Project Area includes a number of lakes and streams utilized for fishing, hunting and other recreational pursuits. For example, the</p>	N	<p>The purpose or the goal for the Fourmile Project is to maintain or restore vegetation communities to their desired conditions in Management Areas 2A, 2B, and 4B (Forest Plan Objective 1.4a); maintain or enhance existing forest studies, current species composition per the direction of</p>

		<p>Scott Creek Impoundment, a popular waterfowl hunting, trapping and wildlife viewing area is not mentioned in the proposal. It is likely that a number of management options could be evaluated to enhance this area. We do feel that with outdoor recreation being a high public use in this area that any plans should include considerations for enhancing or improving public use."</p>		<p>the North Central Forest Experiment Station, or the development of new research projects in the project area; provide a safe and effective road system to support the vegetation actions proposed (Forest Plan Goal 3.1); and maintain or enhance public safety related to wildfire potential and vegetation actions proposed (Forest Plan Objective 2.8c). Maintenance activities on lakes and streams are beyond the scope of this project because it does not fall within the purpose of the Fourmile Project.</p>
45		<p>"We support the majority of the management practices proposed for this project area but have concerns regarding the hundreds of acres of aspen thinning or overstory removal listed in the project proposal. While we understand Forest Plan direction to reduce aspen levels in certain Management Areas, the level of aspen on these Areas has been steadily declining due to a lack of active management and may already be within Forest Plan ranges. If so, every effort should be made to maintain those aspen stands that still have the ability to be regenerated successfully. We do support efforts to regenerate these important early successional communities even if it means exceeding the general 40 acre harvest unit limitations. Since the chances of returning to this project area for additional silvicultural treatments within the next decade or two are slim, we encourage the regeneration of all stands that most likely will not persist until the next projected harvest. While the desired future condition would be well-balanced age classes across the CNNF to meet timber and wildlife objectives, in this instance we do see the need to harvest what you can, when you can. We also support scheduling harvests over more than a decade targeting older and/or less vigorous</p>	S	<p>Thank you for supporting the Fourmile Project and pointing out the error concerning the Experimental Forest's establishment date. This error will be corrected.</p>

		<p>stands first to ensure a continuum of age diversity...WCFA also supports proposed treatments as listed in overstocked conifer, northern hardwood, and oak stands to improve forest health and productivity. Northern Wisconsin is an optimum location for growing trees with an industry in place to properly harvest and utilize this renewable resource. We are encouraged to see the proposed efforts to regenerate a number of paper birch stands within the project area.</p> <p>We believe that there is an error in the Fourmile Project Proposed Projects Defined document provided on the Forest website. It notes that the cutting units on the Argonne Experimental Forest were established in 1851 and are expected to go on for 100 years. With the Experimental Forest established in 1947, we expect that year should be correctly listed as 1951. That said, we do support the ongoing experimental efforts of the Argonne that has provided much useful silvicultural information for managing northern hardwood forests across the Lake States.”</p>		
45		<p>“...There is no mention in the proposal of the Scott Creek Ruffed Grouse Management Area or Scott Creek Impoundment that exist in the southern part of the Project Area. Both are important wildlife management areas as well as popular hunting and wildlife viewing areas that require ongoing management activities to meet their specific objectives. We trust that some of the harvest proposals will provide young forest habitat in these areas but see no mention of upland opening management in this proposal. Grassy openings can provide critical habitat for ruffed grouse broods, woodcock peenting areas, waterfowl nesting areas, black bear foraging habitat, areas for pollinators, and more so should</p>	N	<p>The current scope of the Fourmile Project is maintaining existing activities for the Nine-mile Creek, Kimball Creek North and South, and Scott Creek Hunter Hiking Trails. Maintaining or enhancing other areas like the Scott Creek Ruffed Grouse Management Area or Scott Creek Impoundment is beyond the scope of the project; however, your concerns and suggestions are being noted and are possible activities for a future project.</p>

		be considered in any vegetation management proposal...”		
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